

# REPORT

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 22nd February 1902.

### CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
<b>I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.</b>		<b>(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—</b>	
Nil.		A road wanted in the Tippera district ...	95
<b>II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.</b>		Payment of compensation for lands acquired for the Luksam Noakhali Railway ...	ib.
<b>(a)—Police—</b>		<b>(h)—General—</b>	
Dacoities in the Burdwan district ...	87	Government's reply to the Tea Association ...	ib.
A strike in Mymensingh ...	ib.	Shifting of postal peons in Chittagong ...	96
Thefts, etc., in Berhampore ...	ib.	The rumoured abolition of the salt duty ...	ib.
Oppression of natives by whitemen ...	ib.	A postal grievance ...	ib.
People killed in a feast in Puri town ...	ib.	Wanted a Post office in a village ...	ib.
A public nuisance in Calcutta ...	ib.	Lord Curzon and Mr. Cotton in the coolie question ...	97
Outrage on female modesty by a police officer in the Dacca district ...	ib.	Lord Curzon and the coolie question ...	98
Snatching away of the images of a goddess by some Mussalmans in Calcutta ...	88	<b>III.—LEGISLATION.</b>	
Drunken Highlanders in a Hindu house in Calcutta ...	ib.	The Punjab Bill for cattle impressment ...	99
<b>(b)—Working of the Courts—</b>		<b>IV.—NATIVE STATES.</b>	
A case decided on probabilities ...	ib.	Nil.	
The District Judge of Barisal ...	89	<b>V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.</b>	
The new Magistrate of Murshidabad ...	ib.	Nil.	
Inefficiency of the Court of Wards in the Chittagong district ...	ib.	<b>VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.</b>	
Medical students insulted in Cuttack ...	ib.	The Government and agriculture in Bengal ...	ib.
The Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Rampur Hat in the Birbhum district ...	ib.	The Victoria Memorial Building ...	ib.
<b>(c)—Jails—</b>		<b>URIYA PAPERS.</b>	
Nil.		Cholera in the Puri district ...	ib.
<b>(d)—Education—</b>		Health of the Cuttack and Puri districts ...	ib.
"Is this Education or Manslaughter?" ...	89	Coronation presents to the King-Emperor ...	100
The Ra jan Entrance School in the Chittagong district ...	91	Fires in Cuttack and Balasore towns ...	ib.
Dr. Bedford, Professor of Chemistry, Calcutta Medical College ...	ib.	Mr. K. G. Gupta at the Talchar <i>Sahitya Samaj</i> ...	ib.
Discourtesy in the convocation ...	ib.	The question of feeding the poor on the occasion of the coming Darbar ...	ib.
Practical chemistry in the Medical College ...	ib.	The Midnapore Hindu School ...	ib.
<b>(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—</b>		Municipal assessment in Cuttack town ...	ib.
Hackney carriages in the Berhampore Municipality ...	92	A dacoity in Cuttack town ...	ib.
The Kalighat bazar ...	ib.	The University Commission ...	101
Native clerks in the new Calcutta Municipality ...	ib.	Fatal occurrences in a feast in Puri town ...	ib.
Pollution of drinking water in the Bankura Municipality ...	ib.	Technical institutions in India ...	ib.
The Comilla Municipality ...	ib.	The question of the levy of a toll in the Balasore district ...	ib.
<b>(f)—Questions affecting the land—</b>		The Boer War ...	ib.
An appeal to Mr. H. Luson ...	93	Prospects of Indian arts and industry ...	ib.
		<b>ASSAM PAPERS.</b>	
		Nil.	







## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

**THE Burdwan Sanjivani** [Burdwan] of the 11th February says that of late several dacoities have taken place in the jurisdiction of the Jamalpur thana, in the Burdwan district, but in not even a single case have the offenders been traced. On the 8th Magh last, a dacoity was committed in the house of Bansari Mohan Ghosh in village Haibatpur. The police ought to look sharp.

BURDWAN  
SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 11th, 1902.

2. **The Charu Mihir** [Mymensingh] of the 11th February says that there has been a strike of the owners of hackney-carriages, plying between Mymensingh and Netrakona, causing much inconvenience to the public who use that road. It is said that certain police officers at Mymensingh often keep these carriages on hire for two or three days together, and then dismiss the drivers with inadequate payments. A complaint was made to the Deputy Magistrate, but to no effect. This has led to the strike.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Feb. 11th, 1902.

3. Acts of lawlessness, such as theft, breaking open the padlocks of shops, etc., have of late become very frequent in the Khagra Bazar in Berhampore, says the **Murshidabad Hitaishi** [Berhampore] of the 12th February. There have been more than thirteen such cases—all in shops on the roadside, between the Daiahata crossing and the Khagra sluice. What are the beat constables about? The higher authorities ought to see to this.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Feb. 12th, 1902.

4. **The Hitavadi** [Calcutta] of the 14th February says that on the 17th January last, a boy of the *Bairagi* caste was severely beaten by two white men near the Diamond Harbour Railway Station. The case is *sub judice*. Some time ago a white soldier shot a native on the bank of the Buramantreswar river, within the Diamond Harbour subdivision. The offender is still at large. Cases like the above are not rare. We are sometimes led to think that oppression of natives at the hands of Europeans is ordained by Heaven.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 14th, 1902.

5. The same paper says that recently the Raja of Jaypur, in the Madras Presidency, gave a big feast to Brahmins and Vaisnavas in Puri town while he was on pilgrimage there. The feast was held in a garden, and an overwhelming crowd gathered. One Police Inspector, twelve jamadars, and twelve constables were engaged to keep the peace. But they handled the crowd in such a manner that twelve people were killed on the spot and six were removed to the local hospital in a critical condition. Mr. Reily, the District Superintendent of Police, reported the occurrence to Mr. Garrett, the District Magistrate, who ordered the dead bodies to be burnt. It is hoped that the authorities will inquire into this horrible matter.

HITAVADI.

6. **The Mihir-o-Sudhakar** [Calcutta] of the 14th February calls the attention of the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, to a serious public nuisance in Chitpore Road in front of Natun Bazar, near the Tramway Company's stables. A large number of low-class prostitutes appear on the footpath, use obscene language, sing obscene songs, and solicit low-class passers-by obstructing the public passage. Very often constables are seen either as silent spectators of the scene or participating in it. The other day a gentleman, passing along the footpath, was shoved by the motely crowd into the front of a tramcar while changing horses.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Feb. 14th, 1902.

7. **The Dacca Prakash** [Dacca] of the 16th February says that recently one Gangaprasad, an inhabitant of the village Paina under the Keraniganj thana, in the Dacca district, complained that on the night of the 18th Magh last, Talebar Molla and Chandra Mohan Mandal, inhabitants of the neighbouring village Paschimdi, had kidnapped his daughter named Janaki, aged 13 or 14, and had taken her to the house of one Rai Mohan Shah, where she had been ravished; that after two or three days they had left her near his house; that on the following Monday,

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Feb. 16th, 1902.



Babu Kali Prasanna Das, the Sub-Inspector of the Keraniganj thana, had come to his house for investigation ; that on Thursday next the Sub-Inspector had returned to the thana by boat, accompanied by him and Janaki ; and that on the way the Sub-Inspector had ravished Janaki. Mr. Howard, Joint-Magistrate, dismissed the case as false. Janaki and her father now stand charged under section 211 of the Indian Penal Code for having instituted a false case. It is incomprehensible how a country girl of a very low caste dared to institute a false case against the mighty daroga of a thana.

PRATIVASI,  
Feb. 17th, 1902.

8. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th February says, that while some images of the goddess Saraswati were being carried to the riverside for immersion on the evening of Friday 14th February, a number of lawless Mussalmans suddenly turned up in College Street near the Medical College Hospital, and after assaulting the bearers, snatched away the images by force. A cry was made for the constable of the beat, but he was to be found nowhere ; and before information could be sent to the Muchipara thana, the Mussalmans managed to run away. The incident has caused pain to the orthodox Hindus. Will the Police Commissioner make an enquiry ?

BANGABHUMI,  
Feb. 18th, 1902.

9. A correspondent writes to the *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 18th February, to say that on Sunday, at 9 A. M., two Highlanders of the Calcutta Medical College Hospital, trespassed into the house of Babu Jnanendra Nath Basu, 3, Pratap Chatterjee's Lane, College Street, and went up to the terrace on the third storey. A constable tried his best to persuade them to come away, but was unsuccessful. At last, at the persuasion of two neighbours, Dr. Amulya Ratan Ray and Babu Manmatha Dhan Ray, they came down and left the place. It was fortunate that this occurred on a Sunday and in the morning when the male members were in the house. What would have been the fate of the female members if this had happened on a working day and at an hour when the male members are generally away on business ? Such freaks of drunken soldiers ought to attract the attention of the authorities, and they must not be permitted to stir out.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BASUMATI,  
Feb. 6th, 1902.

10. The *Basumati* [Calcutta], of the 6th February, writes as follows:—

A case decided on probabilities.

In a case, recently decided by an Honorary Magistrate of Tangail, in the Mymensingh district, the plaintiff, a Brahmin named Barada Charan Ghatak, declared that the defendant, one Rajani Chang, who is a Chandal by caste, had wounded him with a *dao* in an altercation which had taken place on the plaintiff's having objected to the defendant's putting up a fence on the plaintiff's land. The defendant urged that the plaintiff had abused and beaten him at first, and that he had lost his temper in consequence, and wounded the plaintiff with his *dao*. The learned Honorary Magistrate decided that it was probable that defendant had acted under great provocation, because it was beyond comprehension how, being a man of a very low caste, he could venture to lay his hand on a Brahmin. The learned Magistrate also remarked—"it is indeed a sad thing that, generally speaking, people in this country have become so degenerated that they will not speak the truth, at least the whole truth; when they have a true story to tell, or true complaint to make, they must needs put a fringe of falsehood to it." We cannot agree with him in this decision. He argued that the probable truth was that the defendant had probably encroached upon the plaintiff's land, that for this the plaintiff had probably beaten the defendant, and that probably the defendant was so much provoked that he had wounded the plaintiff with his *dao*. It was on so many probabilities that the case was decided and "people in this country" were broadly called liars. The offence was, however, proved, and the accused person was sentenced to undergo seven days' rigorous imprisonment.

When the Magistrate probably understood that the plaintiff had probably mixed falsehood with truth, that probably the plaintiff had not only asked the defendant not to encroach upon his land, but had also probably beaten him, that the defendant had probably been provoked by this, and had probably



wounded the plaintiff with a *dao* which was probably near at hand, and that although the defendant had probably committed an offence, yet he had probably committed it under a probable provocation, probably seven days' rigorous imprisonment was probably the just punishment for him.

11. The *Bikash* [Barisal], of the 11th February, says that the District Judge of Barisal does not regularly attend court owing to ill-health, and that this causes inconvenience and hardship to litigants.

BIKASH,  
Feb. 11th, 1902.

12. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Berhampur], of the 12th February, regrets that visitors at the house of the new Magistrate, Mr. Carey, do not fare well. In the first place, none but the titled notabilities are permitted to drive up to the portico. Then, there is now no waiting accommodation for visitors on the verandah, as before. Even when in the presence of the Magistrate, visitors are not asked to sit down, nor even the courtesy of shaking hands is shown to them.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Feb. 12th, 1902.

13. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong], of the 13th February, complains of the mismanagement of the Court of Wards in the Chittagong district. There are no signs of improvement in the estates under the Court; while signs of deterioration are distinctly visible. The lands in the estates are not leased out properly; the wards are not trained in such a way as to become fit to manage their estates properly on attaining their majority. The matter ought to be seriously enquired into.

JYOTI,  
Feb. 13th, 1902.

14. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 14th February, says that on the 6th instant, at about 9 A.M., the Superintendent of the Cuttack Medical School Boarding, insulted a number of respectable boarders by calling them barbers, rustics, &c. To some of them he even said that they would have had to spend their lives as common servants if they had not come to study medicine.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 14th, 1902.

15. The same paper says that the Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Rampur Hat in the Birbhum district generally begins Treasury work in the evening and sometimes even later. This causes great inconvenience to the Treasury *amla*, who run the risk of making mistakes in doing their difficult work in candlelight. One of them once gave a number of two-and-a-half-anna-postage stamps to the local Post Master, mistaking them for two-anna stamps. The next day the Post Master returned the wrong stamps and saved the poor clerk from loss, if not imprisonment.

HITAVADI.

#### (d)—Education.

16. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta], of the 13th February, has the following under the heading, "Is this education or manslaughter?"—

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 13th, 1902.

The Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division, has, under Mr. Pedler's orders, promulgated a list of text-books in which provision has been made for the study of Bengali in the fifth class and downwards. The following is the list of text-books for the respective classes:—

#### 5TH CLASS.

(1) Chambers's Standard Reading Book, No. V.	৬। ক্ষেত্রভূষণ ১ম পুস্তক।
(2) Rowe's Elementary Grammar.	৭। প্রাকৃতিক বিজ্ঞান।
(3) Gangadhar's Elementary Composition.	৮। সম্ভারসার।
৪। পান্ডিগবিত্ত।	৯। রত্নবংশ।
৫। পরিমিত্তি।	১০। ভারতবর্ষের ইতিহাস।
	১১। ভূগোল বিবরণ।
	১২। প্রাকৃতিক ভূগোল।



## 7TH CLASS, SECTION A.

১। Third Reader, by Nesfield.	৭। পরিমিতি।
২। Hiley's Child's Grammar.	৮। বিজ্ঞান।
৩। Elementary Lessons on English Composition, by Gangadhar Banerjee.	৯। কৃষি শিক্ষা।
৪। গণিত প্রকাশ—ত্রৈমাসিক ও সামান্য ভাষাংশ পর্যন্ত।	১০। স্বাস্থ্যের উপায়।
৫। শুভদ্রুত;	১১। নীতি পুস্তক।
৬। ক্ষেত্রতত্ত্ব—২৬শ প্রতিজ্ঞা পর্যন্ত।	১২। কবি কুম্ম ২য় ভাগ।
	১৩। আশুতোষ ব্যাকরণ।
	১৪। প্রথমশিক্ষা বাল্যকালের ইতিহাস।
	১৫। সরল ভূগোল।

## 7TH CLASS, SECTION B.

১। Royal Reader, No. III.	৭। স্বাস্থ্যের উপায়।
২। গণিত প্রকাশ।	৮। যুক্তি।
৩। ইউক্লিডের জ্যামিতি।	৯। কবিতামঞ্জুরী ২য় ভাগ।
৪। সহজ পরিমিতি।	১০। শিশুপুস্তক ব্যাকরণ।
৫। প্রাকৃতিক বিজ্ঞান।	১১। ভারতবর্ষের সংক্ষিপ্ত ইতিহাস।
৬। কৃষি শিক্ষা।	১২। ভূগোল-সোপান।

## 8TH CLASS, SECTION A.

১। First Reader, by Nesfield.	৩। গল্প স্বপ্ন।
২। গণিত প্রকাশ ২য় ভাগ।	৪। পদ্যনীতি।

## 8TH CLASS, SECTION B.

১। National English Reader.	৩। সরল শরীরপালন।
২। শিশুগণিত।	৪। বিজ্ঞানবোধ।

## 8TH CLASS, SECTION C.

১। শিশুগণিত।	২। সরল শরীরপালন।
৩। চাকশিক্ষা।	

## INFANT CLASS, SECTION A.

১। বর্ণপরিচয় ১ম ভাগ।	২। বর্ণপরিচয় ২য় ভাগ।
-----------------------	------------------------

## INFANT CLASS, SECTION B.

১। মৌখিক শিক্ষা।
------------------

Does the Educational Department intend to give education to boys or to ruin their health and intellect? Will the brains of boys reading in the fifth class be able to bear the strain of reading the many difficult books which have been prescribed for them? Boys of the seventh class, who are generally aged 7 or 8 years, will have to read no less than fifteen books, among which are included 26 propositions of the 1st book of Euclid, mensuration, science, an agricultural primer, history of Bengal. Perhaps schoolboys and the heads of the Educational Department are strangers to one another.

Boys of six or seven reading in the seventh class, section B, will have to study no less than twelve books, among which are Royal Reader No. III, Geometry, Mensuration, Natural Science, Agriculture, Bengali Grammar, History of India, Geography. If the authorities had a grain of intelligence in them, they would not have acted so foolishly.

All Government schools and aided schools have been asked to follow the Inspector's list of text-books, which is calculated to ruin the intellectual capacities of students by submitting their brains to an unusually heavy strain. We pray to Sir John Woodburn for their lives, and hope that we do not pray in vain.



17. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 13th February finds fault with the management of the Raojan Entrance School, and

The Raojan Entrance School in the Chittagong district.

says that complaints are often heard of the misconduct of the boys of the school. The examination papers were tampered with, and some school furniture were stolen; and yet the offenders were not brought to book.

JYOTI  
Feb. 13th, 1902.

18. The *Hitaradi* [Calcutta] of the 14th February say that on the 10th instant Dr. Bedford, Professor of Chemistry in the

Dr. Bedford, Professor of Chemistry, Calcutta Medical College.

Calcutta Medical College, expelled the plucked students of the 2nd and 3rd year classes for not coming with his note on practical chemistry. As a matter of fact, however, the note had not even been published at that time. A Professor like Dr. Bedford should adorn the Military rather than the Educational Department.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 14th, 1902.

19. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th February has the following in English:—

Discourtesy in the Convocation.

"The Chancellor has at least in one respect cried in the wilderness. He has read a lecture on the dignity of the teachers' profession to the University authorities, who true to their tradition of disrespect for the teacher, set a Police Sergeant to receive the Pandits, the Professors and the *alumni*. Mahamahopadhyaya Pandit Chandra Kanta Tarkalankar was following the procession of the Chancellor and the prominent Fellows, but though attired in his Mahamahopadhyaya dress he could not satisfy the sergeant, and had to walk back. Could not the Registrar ask some of his own men to see that distinguished members of the University were properly treated? Is the service of the police essentially necessary on such an occasion? Is not such an element disquieting in an atmosphere of academic calm, academic dignity, and academic fellow-feeling?

PRATIVASI,  
Feb. 17th, 1902.

"The Registrar himself was justly hard to those who had not the self respect to get in with tickets. But it should have been done in a way so as not to remind us of the tramcar or the railway platform. The University Convocation is gaining such notoriety in this direction as to scare away the self-respecting men."

20. The same paper has the following in English:—

PRATIVASI.

Practical chemistry in the Medical College.

"Practical Chemistry has been a source of much trouble to the students of the Medical College. Examiners of the subject, anxious to score a point on the poor examinees, do not unfrequently offer a solution of brick-dust for test. The boys, however, have got used to such caprices of the examiners, but new ones are to be yearly grappled with. The other day Mr. Bedford expelled the students who could not procure his book on the subject, even though his publisher could not supply it. Allowing for the human weakness of making one think very highly of one's own production, we are bound to say that Mr. Bedford carried his hobby a little too far.

"Then again this class has begun to sit from the 11th February, while the preliminary scientific examination comes off on the 10th March. The predecessor of Mr. Bedford, Dr. Waddel, commenced his lectures from the beginning of the session. But this gentleman did not think it proper to commence his course of lectures before the middle of November.

"In the B.A. and M.A. examinations the candidates are allowed to consult their books during the course of the examination.

In the Medical College also Mr. Tait allowed the use of books and notes for the last two years. But Ray Chuni Lal Basu Bahadur, the examiner of the subject for the present year is, we hear, opposed to such a practice. We are not for lowering the standard of examinations, but having regard to the fact that practical chemistry is not such an important subject for a physician as Physiology or Anatomy, we shall only ask him to consider if facility for getting through the examination cannot be safely afforded in this subject. To the medical students this subject is coming to be surrounded with great many difficulties and unpleasant associations, and we wish the authorities to see their way to introduce a healthy system of teaching and examining in this much dreaded subject."



## (e).—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Feb. 12th, 1902.

21. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Berhampur], of the 12th February, says that the carriages plying for hire within the Berhampur Municipality are wretched ones, and the horses look like skeletons suffering from glanders. It is unsafe to drive in such rickety vehicles, and the spectacle of drivers mercilessly lashing disabled horses is really heart-rending.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 13th, 1902.

22. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 13th February complains of the extremely unhealthy condition of the bazar in the vicinity of the Kalighat temple. Neither the Municipality nor the *sebaits* of the temple try to have the condition of the bazar improved. Improvement of the bazar can be forced on its owners by withholding its license. But, under the supremacy of whitemen in the Municipality, its white officers are happily sleeping over local wants and grievances.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Feb. 14th, 1902.

23. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta], of the 14th February, writes as follows :—

Native clerks in the new Calcutta Municipality.

Mr. Greer has established four district offices in Calcutta, over which he hopes the head office of the Calcutta Municipality will rule supreme as the General Post Office rules its subordinate offices in the country. A re-arrangement of clerks has been made for service in the district offices, which have been located in four hired houses. Money is being spent like water.

Under Mr. Greer's rule, the number of Eurasian clerks in the Calcutta Municipal Office has steadily increased. Mr. Greer has set himself to reducing the salaries of native clerks and abolishing posts. He has appointed a white-man as the Municipal Accountant, though natives have held the post since the establishment of the Municipality. The salaries of native clerks in every department of the Municipality have been reduced, and subordinate clerks no longer hope to become head clerks drawing Rs. 150 per mensem. All this has been done for the natives and not for the whitemen. The salary of the Secretary to the Corporation has been increased by Rs. 200, and thus made Rs. 1,000. It is moreover understood that the salary of the future assessor will be Rs. 1,000. But the native clerks who were receiving Rs. 275 are receiving Rs. 150, and those who were receiving Rs. 60 are receiving Rs. 28. It is the absence of courageous Commissioners in the Municipality that has brought about this state of things. A curious incident recently occurred in the Municipality. The post of a marksman on a salary of Rs. 14 per mensem having become vacant, a native, who had read up to the 2nd class of the Entrance School, applied for it. On his application, Mr. Greer made the note, "What University qualification does the candidate possess? Has he passed the B.A., F.A., or Entrance Examination?" University qualification for a marksman on Rs. 14 !

BANKURA  
DARPAN,  
Feb. 16th, 1902.

24. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura], of the 16th February, says that the Municipal Commissioners of Bankura ought to protect the water in tanks and wells against pollution. It very often happens that in the rainy season the filthy water of the drains flows into the tanks, thus polluting their water and rendering it unwholesome. The accumulation of night-soil on the banks of the tanks also contributes to pollution. As to wells, their water is polluted by a process of percolation of the water of the cess-pools or *kucha* drains close by. There are also places within the limits of the Municipality that are not served by the existing tanks and wells. The Municipality should undertake the excavation of tanks and wells in those places.

TRIPURA HITAISHI,  
Feb. 18th, 1902.

25. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 18th February says that only five Municipal Commissioners of the Comilla Municipality were present at the meeting of the Budget Committee. Such a poor attendance at a meeting which considered the annual income and expenditure of the Municipality, clearly shows that the Municipal Commissioners have a very inadequate sense of duty, and that Local Self-Government has but little attraction for them. At the meeting two Commissioners protested against the consideration of the Budget being hurried through, and moved for an adjournment, but the motion was rejected by the votes of



the remaining three Commissioners, and the Budget was passed without consideration. One of the rules, framed by the Government for regulating the conduct of business of Municipalities, lays down that the notice of every Committee meeting must be sent to every member at least seven days before the date of the meeting. This rule is never observed, and as to the last Budget Committee meeting, some members received the notice only 3 or 4 days before. Then, again, it is the general practice at a Committee meeting to read the proceedings of the previous meeting before they are confirmed, but at the last Budget Committee, such proceedings were confirmed without being read, and yet it was recorded that the proceedings were "read and confirmed."

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

26. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 12th February has the following in English:—

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Feb. 12th, 1902

An appeal to Mr. H. Lusson.

"It is a unique incident in the history of the *Medini Bandhav* that any portion of it should be written in English. And this extraordinary course we have been forced to adopt for the first time by the stress of circumstances. On the one hand the bitter and never-ending strife between the well-known land-holders Messrs. R. Watson & Co. and their tenants has reached its zenith, and on the other we have got Mr. Lusson to preside over the destinies of the hapless and helpless rack-rented ryots. This accounts for the bold departure from the wonted course. We faithfully echo the public sentiment when we say that the acts of Mr. Lusson, than whom hardly any greater well-wisher of the people of this district ever held sway, have raised sanguine hopes even in the minds of those who had long been driven to utter despair that a finale of this huge tug-of-war may be reached through the good offices of this worthy representative of his gracious and glorious Britannic Majesty, provided that the facts of the case be laid bare to him with all their gravity. It is therefore that we have made up our mind to stand face to face with him and to address him direct and not to suffer any go between to serve as a medium, lest much of the pathos and earnestness of the original be lost in him.

"Mr. Lusson assumed the reins of Government of this district not long ago, and enough time has not yet elapsed to enable him to pick up the thread of his administration; so he is not quite conversant with the way of this dreaded company. This wealthy and influential company is owned and its concerns are managed by Europeans, whereas the seat of its power and authority lies far away in the interior of the district, among rural population, where dense ignorance still reigns supreme. The presence of these European Managers in the interior of the district, inhabited wholly by simple and ignorant people, has been a source of constant danger and infinite trouble to the great bulk of the population there, especially as the Europeans are there cut off from society and friends, simply to satisfy the greed of gain. It may be questioned by many—'What harm is there if one or two isolated Europeans live in the midst of the artless and simple rural population? They would teach them a higher civilisation and thus improve their lot.' This is indeed an apt question which naturally occurs to Englishmen who themselves are large-hearted and sympathetic. We also submit that we have not the hardihood to deny that the Europeans are a superior race bound to receive the homage of the people of this country. It is also true that high dignitaries, such as a Commissioner and a High Court Judge, not to speak of lesser worthies than they, deem it an honour and a privilege to be entertained by them. In those out-of-the-way places they gladly accept the lavish hospitality of the Company's agents, dine and drink and drink and dance, and dance and drink again, and are held spell-bound by the sweet prattle of their hosts and hostesses, who are all attention to them. But we submit also that there are Europeans and Europeans, Englishmen and Englishmen. And instead of risking our own humble opinion about them let us quote some remarks made in a judgment by a judge who tried a most important civil suit in connection with the present troubles—

"In the plaint it is not stated how the rent was enhanced, or what made the plaintiffs claim this enhanced rent. Plaintiffs have adduced evidence to prove that their claim is based on contract entered into with the defendants in August and October.....and in support of their allegation plaintiffs have put in *Dowl jamabandi*. \* \* \* Defendants also contend that these contracts



are void.....inasmuch as they were induced by undue influence and coercion...  
 ...The evidence adduced by defendants shew that they were taken to plaintiffs' *cutcherry* by *nagais* or *lathials* retained by plaintiffs, and were made to sign blank papers by threat.....Some of the defendants deposed that actual force was applied to them. Defendant Natabar Mandal deposed that plaintiffs' men pulled him by the ear and made him sit down and stand up alternately.....This evidence coupled with the evidence adduced by plaintiffs shows that the defendants did not execute these documents of their own free will and consent. ....Plaintiff's witness No. 4 deposed, the *nagdis* accompanied *naibs* and *muharrirs* wherever they went.....Plaintiffs have got 5 or 7 temporary *nagdis* at *Jalheri*. Now there are about 7 or 8 *nagdis* at *Jaypur*. There can be no doubt that the plaintiffs anticipated resistance and opposition by tenants to the enhancement of rent, and therefore retained a gang of *lathials* to force upon the poor helpless tenants the enhanced rent.....This witness further deposed that he asked *Arun* to send his mother and wife to *cutcherry*..... It is therefore no wonder that the husband instantly obeyed the call and acquiesced in executing papers in order to save himself and his family from disgrace and dishonour.....This shows the method adopted in getting these *Dowls* executed by tenants.....His [plaintiff's witness No. 3] evidence further shows that a moving column was organised consisting of a dozen or so *muharrirs* and clerks attended by a number of *lathials* or *nagdis* and their followers, who went from place to place and took signature of tenants in these papers.. ...It is therefore idle to talk of free consent and voluntary execution. I accordingly find that undue influence and coercion were applied in the execution of these documents. I accordingly hold that they are void under section 19 and 19 A of Act 9 of 1872....."

"The evidence of plaintiffs' witness No. 1 shows what was the condition of these tenants under the plaintiffs previously. It is stated that previously tenants were obliged to manure all land in which plaintiffs grew indigo; they were required to plough the said land and to cut and carry indigo plants. The tenants were never paid for all this. Besides they were required to grow indigo for the plaintiffs in their own land. It would thus be seen that for many years past the tenants were entirely at the mercy of the plaintiffs and were quite helpless to defend their just rights and privileges. It was not possible for them to resist or oppose the plaintiffs. They patiently bore their lot however hard and pitiable it was.....The enhanced rent said to have been agreed to by defendants seems to me to be not only illegal and contrary to the provisions of the Tenancy Act; but is neither fair, just nor equitable. It is stated that the enhanced rent is demanded by plaintiffs because they no longer require the services of tenants in growing indigo. In other words plaintiffs ask the court to declare that they were lawfully entitled to the services rendered by tenants and to commute it to money rent. There can be no question that these services exacted from tenants had no legal sanction, but were extorted from them by force. They were not only unlawful but highly unjust, oppressive and extortionate.....I accordingly find that the enhancement made is unconscionable."

The above extracts serve a double purpose. They not only give us a clear idea of the ways of the Company's agents, but they also unfold a sad story of bitter antagonism that is still running rampant between the tenants and their landlords—from the melancholy meanness of the proprietors of the soil to force their rackrented tenants to submit to the enhancement of rent of 2 annas per bigha, in order to make good the loss caused by the competition of artificial indigo manufactured by Germany down to the coercive measures of a very culpable nature to make them submit to their oppressive exactions.

But there are many more things than what the judgment hints at. One of these is the offence of cattle-trespass, and another is the breach of the peace committed by the tenants with a view to rescue their cattle from the grip of the Company's servants at the time of driving them to the pounds. These two offences of an allied nature very frequently occur when the tenants refuse to submit to their unjust demands. A third kind of offence which is sure to crop up in large numbers at such troublous times is the stealing of firewood from the jungles. These are some of the ways which are resorted to by the wealthy and influential Company to harass the poor and helpless tenants with the ostensible object of coercing them to submission. And the tenants are not quite unwilling



to pay this increased demand provided that a guarantee be given that no further enhancement of rent will be levied from them. But the Company cannot bear to think that all possibilities for future expansion of its revenues should be stopped for good and all on the promise of paying the higher tribute. We, therefore, see no way out of this imbroglio except it be that Mr. Luson holds up the olive branch of peace and effects a compromise based upon equitable grounds. Such a reconciliation is urgently needed not only to save a considerable number of tenants from utter ruin, but also to remove a false notion which obtains among the ignorant people that it is the British Raj after all which is ultimately responsible for all their woes because they are not sharp enough to distinguish between the Company's rule in the '40's and '50's and that of Watson Company at the present time. They see every day that the latter's agents who manage its concerns are whitemen and are members of the same ruling race which carries on the government of the country, and they therefore jump to the conclusion that the Company and its agents form an integral portion of the administrative staff of this country. With the object, therefore, of sparing the Government an unmerited blame as well as to do bare justice to the poor and submissive tenants, Mr. Luson, we hope, would take a firm attitude with regard to this affair and exercise his vast influence with the parties to settle the matter amicably.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

27. The Balakhal correspondent of the *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla], of the 11th February, asks the District Board to consider the expediency of constructing a road, extending from Gollak or Khajuria to the Balakhal Bazar in the Tippera district. Such a road would not only conduce to public convenience, but also add to the income of the ferry ghat at Balakhal.

TRIPURA HITAISHI,  
Feb. 11th, 1902.

28. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali], of the 12th February, says that there is great dissatisfaction at the manner in which payment of compensation is being made by the Railway Deputy Collector for lands acquired for the Laksam-Noakhali Railway. Owners of land have to dance attendance and are treated with scant courtesy. They are made to sign receipts, wherein the amount to be received is not set forth; and when parties complain of inadequate compensation, they are ordered to be held by the neck and driven out.

SUHRID,  
Feb. 12th, 1902.

(h)—*General.*

Government's reply to the Tea Association.

29. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta], of the 13th February, has the following:—

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 13th, 1902.

JUDGE—LORD CURZON.

Assam Planters

*versus*

The Chief Commissioner of Assam.

The Chief Commissioner's Labour Immigration Report for 1900-1901, shows that the average rate of wage earned by coolies is considerably below the legal minimum. During the year under discussion, contract coolies earned wages at the average rate of Rs. 4-10-6 per mensem, whilst free coolies earned at the average rate of Rs. 5-2-3 per mensem. It is clear therefore that those who were bound hand and foot by law earned less than their free brethren. In reply to this, Government says that immigration coolies lose their health in Assam, and cannot therefore earn their full wages. Supposing this to be true, how can it account for the fact that immigration coolies earn more when the pressure of work in the gardens is high and less when it is low. Does their health improve and deteriorate with the varying amounts of work in the gardens? This variation in the wages earned by coolies is universal in all the gardens. All this proves that coolies are unjustly fined in order to increase the income of the gardens.



Government says that the lowness of the birth-rate among the cooly population "is largely due to the systematic procuring of abortion, which is a lamentable result of the absence of settled marriage relations among the coolies." But is not Government itself responsible for this "systematic procuring of abortion?" It is with the aid of the law that large numbers of men and women, unknown to each other, are brought from different parts of the country and made to live together. Again, it is not true that cooly women have always recourse to abortion as a means of hiding their shame. They know that if they become mothers, they will not be able to devote their whole time to garden work, and will therefore fail to earn wages sufficient for their maintenance. It is this fear of failing to provide for themselves that not unoften compels cooly-women to have recourse to abortion. A Deputy Commissioner of Cachar once said that coolies become incapable of giving birth to children on account of bad health and insufficient nutrition, and yet the Governor-General in Council has laid the whole blame on the supposed laxity of their character.

Official reports have more than once shown that in tea-gardens coolies are whipped and kicked, that cooly-women are stripped naked and beaten on their posteriors. But does not Lord Curzon know all this? If he does not, he may read with profit a book which was published in 1889 from our office.

Lord Curzon has spoken in high terms of Act XIII of 1859; but Sir Charles Elliott once said that "it was open to the gravest objection."

Lord Curzon says that "the Government of India are reluctant to believe that the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton can be correct in his rejection of the views expressed by an unbroken series of his predecessors," who held office during the last thirteen years. But how many men have the courage to speak of misdeeds committed by Englishmen? Mr. Cotton spoke the truth, and has been censured. Under Lord Curzon's rule, all the machinery of the Administration is being set to work, so as to benefit the trading community of Englishmen. Mr. Cotton has received the censure of the Government in trying to check the misdeeds of a class of English traders. No other ruler of a province was ever censured under similar circumstances by the Governor-General in Council. No other ruler of Assam will dare speak against the tea-planters, and the miserable lot of the poor cooly will ever remain unredeemed.

JYOTI,  
Feb. 13th, 1902.

30. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong], of the 13th February, thinks that no benefit will be derived from the shifting of postal peons in Chittagong. Shifting of postal peons in Chittagong. which is now going on in the town and district of Chittagong under the orders of the Divisional Superintendent of post offices. On the contrary there will be greater delay and more numerous mistakes in the delivery of letters, &c., till the peons fully acquaint themselves with the people and places in their new jurisdictions. Nor will there be a saving of Government money; for the shifting business, it is said, will require an additional expenditure of Rs. 50 per month.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Feb. 14th, 1902.

31. Referring to the widespread rumour regarding the contemplated abolition of the salt duty, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta], of the 14th February, says that such a measure would earn for Lord Curzon the hearty blessings of the poor millions of His Majesty's Indian subjects. It is true that the abolition of the salt duty will cause a diminution of the Government revenue; but the loss may well be recouped by imposing duties on articles of luxury, such as perfumeries, soap, &c.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 14th, 1902.

32. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 14th February, says that the village Digha in the Jessore district suffers great postal disadvantages, although it musters a fairly large number of letters, &c. Letters, &c., for the village are distributed by postmen in the local bazar. Money-orders have to be fetched from the post office, which is one-and-a-half miles distant from the village. There is no letter-box in the village or in its neighbourhood. The postal authorities should order at least a letter-box in the village.

HITAVADI.

33. The same paper says that the village Simla is 5 or 6 miles distant from the Gopalpur post office, within the jurisdiction of which it lies. Letters are distributed there only thrice in the week. The rains

Wanted a post office in a village.



sometimes prevent postmen from coming to the village. On such occasions the villagers are put to great inconvenience. The village is important enough to support a post office. It is hoped that the authorities will look to the matter.

34. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta], of the 15th February, has the following:—

BANGAVASI,  
Feb. 15th, 1902.

Lord Curzon and Mr. Cotton in the cooly question.

As in its reply to the memorial of the Indian Tea Association the Government of India has expressed itself in favour of the tea planters, Mr. Cotton, that friend of the Assam cooly, must be held to have sustained a defeat in his war with the planting community. Considering that Indian coolies are going even to distant Natal, Fiji, British Guiana and other countries in quest of labour, why are many of them so very afraid to proceed to Assam, which may be said to lie almost at their house door? Why, again, should such a stringent law be required to compel them to remain and work in that province? The Government says that as the tea-planters have to import labourers from distant places at considerable expense, a special cooly law is required in order "to prevent coolies from deserting their employment, either wantonly or at the illegitimate solicitation of a rival tea-garden." Now, everybody knows that people suffering from want would never desert their employment if they were well treated. Such desertion would be entirely opposed to human nature, especially to the Indian nature. As for deserting one garden and joining another, would it not be possible to adopt preventive as well as remedial measures short of a special law in view of that? The fact is, self-interest is a dangerous thing. Government has not been able to completely deny that self-interest does lead tea planters to ill-treat their coolies; nay, Government has in a manner made the admission in its letter, and directed its officers to keep a sharp eye on the relations of the planters with their labourers, in order that the latter may be saved from ill usage. There is in all this clear proof of the Viceroy's large-heartedness and his sincere sympathy with the natives of the country. But there is one fact which should be carefully considered in this connection. It is this, that the officials in Assam and the tea-planters all hail from the same country and speak the same language. While the planters possess plenty of opportunities and find it perfectly easy to represent their case to the officials, the coolies are unable to come near them. The cooly does not understand the language of the officers, and the officers do not understand the cooly's language. Under these circumstances, the officers are not always able to know what grieves the cooly's heart. It was only the other day that the Viceroy himself made a tour through Assam, and partook of the planter's hospitality, but did he on that occasion take the trouble to make himself acquainted with the heart's grief of the coolies by summoning any of them to a private interview, and reassuring them with words of encouragement? It is our belief that no satisfactory results will be obtained so long as the existing cooly law is not changed.

On the subject of the coolies' wages, Mr. Cotton says that they receive much less than what they are legally entitled to, and that there are gardens in which male coolies earn less than Rs. 5 and female coolies less than Rs. 4 a month. The Tea Association's reply to this statement is of a most faltering and unsatisfactory nature. What they say is to the effect that not unoften the coolies absent themselves from work, do not perform the prescribed task, and do mischief, and that is why they are fined and paid short wages. Consequently if average calculations are relied on, the rate at which they are paid may appear low, but, as a matter of fact, they are not paid at a low rate. This is the planter's defence. We are surprised to see that it is approved by the Government of India. In a garden there may be a few wicked or indolent coolies, but it can never be reasonable to suppose that people who are driven by hunger to seek employment would spend their time in indolence. Government observes: "It is, moreover, true that the wages laid down by law are made conditional upon the performance of a fair task, and that work could hardly be expected of men who knew that the earnings were independent of the amount of work performed." But what would be a fair task for one labourer? What amount of work would he be expected to perform in order to entitle himself to a certain amount of wages? Who is there to enquire into the matters suggested by these questions? Every merchant naturally desires to make a



reduction of expenditure, and if he is armed with improper powers, he is sure to misuse them. Of course, there are large-hearted tea-planters who might be supposed to be free from such moral weakness. But such weakness is natural in men possessed of ordinary prudence. Another point is, when the coolies know that the performance of less than a fair task is sure to bring them short wages, and that they will not be allowed to desert their employment, it is only reasonable to conclude that they will do their best to perform a fair task. The fact is, as the Government of India has not had the opportunity of making such enquiries and collecting such information in regard to this matter as have been made and collected by Mr. Cotton, Mr. Cotton's views appear to us to be more authoritative than those which have been expressed in the Government's reply to the Tea Association.

It is observed by the Government of India that "employers are very strongly interested in the re-engagement of time-expired coolies, and cases have occurred which indicate that they do not always resist the temptation to gain this end by illegitimate means." For the purpose of preventing such abuse of authority, which according to Mr. Cotton is very frequent, and according to the Viceroy occasional, and which is therefore an undeniable fact, His Excellency has sought the assistance of the Tea Association. The best course under these circumstances would be to repeal the Labour Law and thereby put an end to all difficulty.

On the subject of the lowness of the birth-rate among the Assam coolies the Government of India says that this low birth-rate "is largely due to the systematic procuring of abortion, which is a lamentable result of the absence of settled marriage relations amongst the coolies, but for which the system of garden management cannot fairly be held responsible." We are astonished to read this remark, made, as it is, by a keen observer like Lord Curzon. To a people among whom settled marriage relations do not prevail and whose moral notions and social status are not high, the birth of illegitimate children is certainly not a matter of shame or reproach. Under these circumstances, there is no reason why they should resort to the procuring of abortion.

The Government of India entirely sympathise with Mr. Cotton in the desire that cases of oppression should be severely dealt with. But it is well known that all such cases do not come to light. The starving, timid, poor and helpless coolies do not, unless sorely oppressed, venture to lay their grievances before the officials. We do not say that it is every tea-planter who ill-treats his coolies, nor was it proper for Mr. Cotton to make such a sweeping statement, but it is certain that in the great majority of cases, the coolies are subjected to ill-usage. Mr. Cotton possesses a larger measure of intelligence and sympathy with the natives of the country than is possessed by the average official, and that is why he has had many opportunities of making himself acquainted with the real condition of the coolies. His views on this coolie question are, therefore entitled to great weight. We firmly believe that if the keen-eyed Lord Curzon lives *incognito* for some time in Assam, and sets himself to collect the real facts about the coolies, he will be obliged to express himself differently on this question. To arrive at a correct conclusion on any matter after only studying the papers relating to it or hearing only one side is an act which is beyond the powers of even a man of genius like Lord Curzon.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Feb. 15th, 1902.

35. Referring to Lord Curzon's reply to the representation submitted by the Tea Association in connection with the coolie question, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 15th February observes that Lord Curzon in deciding the question in favour of the tea-planters has indirectly censured Mr. Cotton. When Lord Curzon after eating the dinners given by the tea-planters highly praised them in the presence of Mr. Cotton, we understood His Excellency's feeling towards these people. His Excellency is of opinion that the present Coolie Act is not at all a bad measure, and that the tea-planters give the coolies very kind treatment. But even so staunch an advocate of the Anglo-Indians as Sir Charles Elliott severely condemned that Act. Lord Curzon must not, however, be found fault with. All these acts of Lord Curzon must be attributed to climatic influences. It is the Indian climate which made a high minded official like Lord Curzon partial to the *begar* system and caused him to pass the *Begar* Act. It is climatic influences which have made Lord Curzon go the length of approving



the Coolie Act and of believing that the coolies, ignorant though they are, sign their bonds with a full understanding of their nature and import. He has come to know that the practice of foeticide prevails among the coolies, but we are sorry to say that he has, for the sake of the tea-planters, desisted from taking any steps to put a stop to it. His Excellency will have to remain in the Indian climate for some time longer. It remains to be seen what other changes that climate will yet produce in his feelings.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

36. Referring to the Punjab Bill for Cattle Impressment, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th February asks, why has not the principle of impressing cattle been enforced in England in order to meet the exigencies of the Boer war?

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 14th, 1902.

Is it because the Punjabis are a meek people that Government is going to enforce *begar* among them? It is feared that the Bill will create disturbances in the frontier.

### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

37. The *Pratihar* [Berhampore] of the 14th February writes as follows:—  
In Bengal, which is a vast agricultural country, there are only two experimental farms conducted by the Government, and three Government officers to look after its agricultural interests. Of these three officers, one is Mr. D. N. Mukerji, Assistant Director of Land Records and Agriculture, and the other two are Overseers drawing salaries of Rs. 50 and Rs. 75 per mensem, respectively. The latter have, besides their office duties, to tour in the country and give agricultural lessons to the managers of khas mahals and wards' estates. One of these Overseers, Babu Nivaran Chandra Chaudhuri, passed the higher grade agricultural examination in Sibpur and has served the Government with credit for some years. The other, Babu Ananta Mohan Ray, is a B.A., F.E. But these able and educated young officers get no encouragement in their work. This is the reason why the number of students of agriculture in Sibpur is diminishing every year.

PRATIKAR,  
Feb. 14th, 1902.

For the development of agriculture in Bengal, the sympathy and endeavours of its educated people are needed; and to secure the active sympathy of educated people it is necessary that the Government and zamindars should join shoulders. So long as this is not done, poverty will go on increasing, and the country will drift towards famines which will devour all.

38. With reference to the Victoria Memorial Building the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th February observes that no one ought to be sorry at the proposal of Lord Curzon that all materials requisite for the building should be brought from Europe. The Indians must know that the Victoria Memorial is being built as a token of their loyalty to Her late Majesty. All that they should concern themselves about is, therefore, that their loyalty is sufficiently demonstrated in this connection and not how or with what materials the building is constructed.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Feb. 17th, 1902.

### URIYA PAPERS.

39. The Puri correspondent of the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 5th January states that cholera has made its appearance in the Puri district, and that some have already succumbed to the disease.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Jan. 5th, 1902.

40. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 8th February states that the health of the Cuttack district is good. The *Uriya and Navasambad* [Balasore] of the 5th February states that cholera, fever and small-pox are creating great uneasiness among the people of the Balasore district, and many are reported to have died of the same.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Feb. 8th, 1902.  
URIYA AND  
NAVASAMBAD,  
Feb. 5th, 1902.



SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Feb. 6th, 1902.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.  
Feb. 5th, 1902.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Feb. 8th, 1902.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Feb. 8th, 1902.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Feb. 6th, 1902.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Feb. 8th, 1902.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPIKA.

41. Referring to the circular of His Excellency the Viceroy, prohibiting the Princes of India from sending presents to the Master of the coming coronation ceremony in England, the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th February and the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th February state that the prohibitory order is good and is conceived in a wise spirit.

42. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 8th February is sorry to state that many thatched houses in the Cuttack and Balasore towns were burnt down last week, causing heavy losses to their owners and ruining not a few among them.

43. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 8th February and the *Sambalpur Hitaisihini* [Bamra] of the 5th February give prominence to the proceedings of the Talcher *Sahitya Samaj* (Literary Association), whose last meeting was prescribed over by Mr. K. G. Gupta, who had occasion to inspect the place in the course of his cold weather tour. Even Mr. Gupta was agreeably surprised to find that in a Gurjat place like Talcher, men were not found wanting who had made *Uriya* a vehicle of communication, whereby thoughts relating to various subjects were freely exchanged. Mr. Gupta was of opinion that had Orissa come under British influence a few years earlier, and had its population been as large as that of Bengal, the *Uriya* language in all its branches would have been in no way inferior to the Bengali or any other cognate language. Mr. Gupta failed not, in the course of his educational discourse, to remind the Raja of Talcher that a great king like Rama of Ancient India had to undergo the self-sacrifice of banishing his lovely lady *Sita* in order to please his subjects; and in order that the maxim of furthering the interests of one's own subjects might be thoroughly imprinted in the young mind of the Raja, Mr. Gupta quoted a verse from the Sanskrit poet *Bharavi*.

44. Referring to the contemplated Durbar at Delhi in the year 1903, the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th February observes that it is not at all necessary to post so many as 30,000 soldiers to the place, and that amidst the bustle of vainglory and outward grandeur, something ought to be done to feed and clothe the poor quietly but sumptuously, and to take beneficent measures whereby death from famine may be avoided in future.

45. Referring to the course of studies prescribed in the Hindu school at Midnapore and its management, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 8th February is of opinion that similar schools are required in other parts of India, where Hindu students may have a thorough grounding in Hindu ethics, philosophy and religion. The writer hopes that the Hindus will come forward with funds to start such institutions.

46. Referring to the assessment of rates in the Cuttack Municipality by the Municipal Assessor, the same paper states that the Cuttack public have really become very alarmed, and it is proper that the rate-payers of those wards whose assessment has been completed, should be duly informed of the results of assessment in time. The writer suggests that if the assessment of each ward is examined or revised by the Commissioners in a particular way, the number of appeals before the appeal committee will be considerably reduced.

47. Referring to a dacoity committed in Cuttack town on the night of the 6th instant, the same paper observes that the incident has created a great sensation, as the dacoits had firearms with them and managed to escape after shooting two chaukidars and two outsiders, who had come to the assistance of the owner of the house, which was freely plundered. The owner of the house was seriously wounded and his relations, male and female, were seriously beaten. The dacoits escaped with ornaments, valued at Rs. 2,000, leaving one six-chambered revolver behind them. The wounded were sent to the hospital and the Police is in search of the culprits.



48. Referring to the appointment of the University Commission by the Government of India, the same paper hopes that though the number of Indians in the Commission is very small, many will be found willing and ready to submit their representations and suggestions on the desired points of enquiry to the Commission, and thereby help its members to go through different phases of disputed questions.

49. The same paper regrets to state that while the Maharaja of Kalakandi, Jeypur, who had been to Puri on pilgrimage, was engaged last week in making preliminary preparations through the agency of his *Panda* for feeding a large number of Brahmins in the Jagannath *Ballabh math* in that place, the influx of Brahmins was so large and the strength of the controlling agency, including a few constables, so inadequate, that the strong trampled over the weak, and this resulted in the death of ten and severe injury to seven Brahmins. The wounded were sent to the hospital in a precarious condition and the local authorities are engaged in making enquiries into the causes of the sad occurrence.

50. Referring to the lecture of Mr. Nriya Gopal Mookerjee in the Calcutta University Institute, the same paper remarks that the lecturer was right in his main conclusions, but was wrong in his statement that the Engineering, Medical and Law schools in India were too many. The writer contends that the number of such schools is too small, and this is proved by the fact that they do not satisfy all the demands of the Indians.

51. Referring to the question of the levy of an illegal toll in the Balasore district, reported in paragraph 41 of the Weekly Report for the week ending the 18th January 1902, the same paper is glad to find that the Vice-Chairman of the Balasore District Board has condescended to submit an explanation on the subject for the information of the public, but is sorry to note that that officer acted unwisely by not properly attending to the complaint, simply because it was perferred through the agency of the post office. What is the use of entertaining the services of a ferry Inspector, asks the writer, if the complainants are to go to the Criminal Courts with their complaints? The writer contends that the *Parvati ghat* should be exempted from the operation of ferry laws, and provision should be made for the plying of a free boat in that part of the High Level Canal, as is the case in the Cuttack district; for crossing of rivers in Orissa is a source of trouble and expense for 3 or 4 months in the year, while the crossing of the canal is a permanent factor in village life round that important source of irrigation.

52. While praising the English nation for an expenditure of seven crores of rupees per month on the Boer war, the same paper is convulsed to find that such a terrible waste of money, accompanied by a still more terrible loss of life, cannot go on long, and prays in all earnestness that the war may be so conducted as to be brought to a close within a reasonable period.

53. Referring to the presentation of a silver medal to Uday Chandra Mahanti of Midnapore for his fine *musland* cloth exhibit by the Fine Arts Exhibition Committee of Calcutta, the same paper, relying on the statement of the *Medini Bandhab*, observes that the medal has been of very little use to the unfortunate exhibitor, for he borrowed money to manufacture the cloth, and as all his efforts to sell the cloth, which is worth Rs. 80 per pair, failed, he is unable to free himself from the clutches of his creditor. Is there no one to buy a pair of cloths worth Rs. 80 either in Calcutta or Midnapore or in any other adjoining district? What a sad comment on the economic condition of India, what a sorrowful tale for the patrons of Indian arts and manufactures!

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,  
*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 22nd February, 1902.*

B. S. Press—7251C—75—26.2.1902—W. H. S.

UTKALDIPKA;  
Feb. 8th, 1902.

UTKALDIPKA.

UTKALDIPKA.

UTKALDIPKA.

UTKALDIPKA.

UTKALDIPKA.



